

~DAGON (180) (Da'gon)

- A god of the Philistines. The existence of cities called Beth-**dagon** likely named after the god Dagon, in the territories of Judah and Asher suggests that the worship of this deity was well established in Canaan at the time of Israel's conquest of the Promised Land.
- And Gederath, Beth-**dagon** and Naamah and Makkedah, sixteen cities and their settlements. (Joshua 15:41)
- And it went back toward the rising of the sun to Beth-**dagon** and reached to Zebulun and the valley of Iphtah-el to the north, to Beth-emek and Neiel, and it went out to Cabul on the left. (Joshua 19:27)
- It is believed that the Philistines adopted **Dagon** worship from the Canaanites.
- There is no agreement as to the derivation of the name **Dagon**. Some scholars associate it with the Hebrew word *dagh* fish, while others favor linking the name with the Hebrew word *da-ghan'* grain.
- When they got up early in the morning the very day after, there **Dagon** was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of Yehowah, with the head of **Dagon** and the palms of both his hands cut off, to the threshold. Only the fish part had been left upon him. (1 Samuel 5:4)
- It is stated concerning the fallen **Dagon**, Only the fish part literally, Only **Dagon**, had been left upon him, his head and the palms of his hands having been cut off.
- The Hebrew word literally meaning **Dagon** in this text has been variously rendered body, NIV, TEV, **Dagon's** body, NE, and Dagon himself Ro by some translators, while others have translated it as fish portion Le, fish-stump Da, fishy part Yg, or fish part. NW
- **Dagon** at times figures in the Biblical narratives. By bracing himself against the two middle supporting pillars, Samson caused the collapse of a house at Gaza used for Dagon worship, killing the Philistines who had assembled there.

- So the Philistines grabbed hold of him and bored his eyes out and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with two fetters of copper, and he came to be a grinder in the prison house. ([Judges 16:21](#))
- Meanwhile the hair of his head started to grow luxuriantly as soon as he had been shaved. ([Judges 16:22](#))
- As for the Philistine axis lords, they gathered together to sacrifice a great sacrifice to **Dagon** their god and for rejoicing, and they kept saying; Our god has given into our hand Samson our enemy! ([Judges 16:23](#))
- When the people got to see him, they at once gave way to praising their god, because, said they, our god has given into our hand our enemy and the devastator of our land and the one who multiplied our slain. ([Judges 16:24](#))
- And it came about that because their heart was merry, they began to say; Call Samson that he may offer us some amusement. So they called Samson out of the prison house that he might make sport before them, and they proceeded to stand him between the pillars. ([Judges 16:25](#))
- Then Samson said to the boy that was holding him by his hand. Do permit me to feel the pillars upon which the house is firmly established and let me lean against them. ([Judges 16:26](#))
- Incidentally, the house was full of men and women and all the Philistine axis lords were there, and upon the roof there were about three thousand men and women who were looking on while Samson offered some amusement. ([Judges 16:27](#))
- Samson now called to Yehowah and said; Sovereign Lord Yehowah, remember me, please, and strengthen me, please, just this once, O you the true God, and let me avenge myself upon the Philistines with vengeance for one of my two eyes. ([Judges 16:28](#))
- With that Samson braced himself against the two middle pillars upon which the house was firmly established, and got a grasp on them, one with his right and the other with his left hand. ([Judges 16:29](#))

- And Samson proceeded to say; Let my soul die with the Philistines. Then he bent himself with power, and the house went falling upon the axis lords and upon all the people that were in it, so that the dead that he put to death in his own death came to be more than those he had put to death during his lifetime. (**Judges 16:30**)

- At the house of **Dagon** in Ashdod, the Philistines deposited the sacred ark of Yehowah as a war trophy. Twice the image of Dagon fell on its face before the Ark. The second time the idol itself was broken. Perhaps in order not to defile the place where the pieces of their god had lain, the priests and others entering the temple of **Dagon** at Ashdod were careful not to tread upon the threshold.

- And the Philistines proceeded to take the ark of the true God and bring it into the house of **Dagon** and station it beside Dagon. (**1 Samuel 5:2**)

- Then the Ashdodites got up early the very next day, and there **Dagon** was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of Yehowah. So they took **Dagon** and returned him to his place. (**1 Samuel 5:3**)

- When they got up early in the morning the very day after, there **Dagon** was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of Yehowah, with the head of **Dagon** and the palms of both his hands cut off, to the threshold. Only the fish part had been left upon him. (**1 Samuel 5:4**)

- That is why the priests of **Dagon** and all those going into the house of **Dagon** do not tread upon the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod down to this day. (**1 Samuel 5:5**)

- By experiencing the painful effects of piles and the ruining of their land by jerboas, the Philistines came to recognize that the hand of the God of Israel had been hard against them and their god **Dagon**.

- And the hand of Yehowah came to be heavy upon the Ashdodites, and he began causing panic and striking them with piles, namely, Ashdod and its territories. (**1 Samuel 5:6**)

- And the men of Ashdod came to see that it was so, and they said, Do not let the ark of the God of Israel dwell with us, because his

- hand has been hard against us and against **Dagon** our god. (**1 Samuel 5:7**)
- And you must make images of your piles and images of your jerboas that are bringing the land to ruin, and you must give glory to the God of Israel. Perhaps he will lighten his hand from off you and your god and your land. (**1 Samuel 6:5**)
 - When King Saul was discovered among the slain at Gilboa, the Philistines cut off his head. After informing the houses of their idols as well as the people back home, they fastened Saul's skull to the house of **Dagon**.
 - And it came about the next day that, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they got to find Saul and his three sons fallen upon Mount Gilboa. (**1 Samuel 31:8**)
 - And they proceeded to cut off his head and strip off his armor and send into the land of the Philistines all around to inform the houses of their idols and the people. (**1 Samuel 31:9**)
 - Finally they put his armor in the house of the Ashtoreth images, and his corpse they fastened on the wall of Beth-shan. (**1 Samuel 31:10**)
 - And it came about the next day that, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they got to find Saul and his sons fallen upon Mount Gilboa. (**1 Chronicles 10:8**)
 - And they proceeded to strip him and take off his head and his armor and send into the land of the Philistines all around to inform their idols and the people. (**1 Chronicles 10:9**)
 - Finally they put his armor in the house of their god, and his skull they fastened to the house of **Dagon**. (**1 Chronicles 10:10**)
 - It may be that the Philistines carried idols of their god **Dagon** into battle.
 - Consequently they left their idols there, and so David and his men took them away. (**2 Samuel 5:21**)